

# **Montana Newsletter**

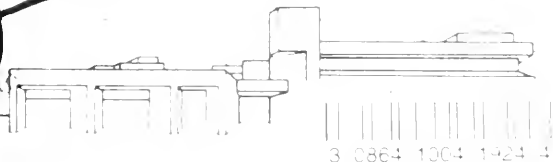
***Montana State Library***

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# News

Ms. 17.406



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Meeting in Hamilton on August 25 were (from left to right): Chair, Mary Hulsboeth, State Librarian, Debbie Schlesinger, and Commissioners Abe Abramson, Mario Thompson and Henry McClernan. Commissioners Victoria Branten and Martha Davis are seen from the back.

## COMMISSION LOOKS AT FEES, AUTOMATION CONSULTANT

The Montana State Library Commission met August 25 at the newly remodeled (as of Spring 1988) Bitterroot Public Library in Hamilton.

The Commissioners approved the proposal by the Advisory Council to hire an automation consultant for the state. They approved a database searching policy for the State Library and failed to approve a searching fee policy for Kellogg-funded projects. The meeting also featured a report from Ellen Newberg, Coordinator of the South Central Federation, on plans for federations' activities.

At the June meeting,

Commissioners approved all of the Advisory Council's recommendations for projects to be funded with LSCA Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA) grants, except for a recommendation to hire an automation consultant for Montana libraries. At the August meeting, the Advisory Council reported they had reconsidered the recommendation, decided there was a need for a consultant and presented the recommendation a second time to the commission. The project was approved.

In keeping with a history of opposing fees for services the Commission did not approve a searching fee policy for Kellogg-funded projects. The policy recommended charging for online searches requested by users and for unusually expensive searches, but

suggested the library assume charges when staff determines an online search the most efficient, most cost effective way to assist the patron.

The approved database searching policy formalizes the State Library's practice of offering database searching to other state agencies.

Commissioners heard from Ellen Newberg, representing the Federation Coordinators, on the previous day's Federation Coordinators meeting. The group discussed public relations ideas for libraries and agreed to attempt to hold legislative days for each federation in September.

It was also reported that coordinators agree with pursuit of changes in the library laws as recommended by the Law Revision Committee (See May MSL News), except for the changes in federation law which they feel should not be introduced in the 1990 session.

Coordinators felt emphasis should be placed on statewide outreach systems and on local collection development in expending 1990 LSCA funds.

Sheila Cates, Montana State Library Coordinator of Library Development, reviewed the scope of the Intermountain Community Learning and Information Services (ICLIS) project. Lucille Gordon explained recent expansions, including literacy efforts and use of

(See "Comm." pg. 4)



Photo by Susan Senger

## SCHLESINGER SAYS SHE'S CHALLENGED

By Susan Senger  
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It's not every day that a woman with a Ph.D. in library science and a career in librarianship is challenged to write a book. But for Susan Schlesinger, it's a daily challenge. She's the author of *The State Librarian: A History of the Profession*, a book that is a must-read for anyone interested in the history of the profession.

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## BUDGET PROBLEMS GET PRESS COVERAGE

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extremely informed with the fact that costs of library materials are climbing faster than the national inflation rate have left many libraries in a financially threatening situation.

Both topics of the articles can be found in *State Librarian* at the State Library.

## FEATHERD STORY HOURS SPECIAL

Story hours at the Featherd Library are a real treat. They are held every Tuesday afternoon from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. and are open to all children and their parents.

The story hours are held in the children's room of the Featherd Library. The special story hours are held every Tuesday afternoon from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. and are open to all children and their parents.

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## LIBRARIES RECEIVE GIFTS

Four Montana libraries recently received gifts from the estate of three library friends. The University of Montana's Main branch library received \$10,000 and the Missoula Public Library was bequeathed \$10,000 each from the estate of Arlene Hartman, a Missoula

(See "Gifts" pg. 4)

## ENCUMBER TO MEET IN BOZEMAN

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## LIBRARY REFERENDA POPULAR

The June 15 issue of *Library Journal* reports that library referenda are doing well throughout the country, with the disclaimer that the data collected by the author is "only a sample."

The sample, collected for the period, July 1, 1986 to June 30, 1987, includes 54 library referenda. Of these, 50 were successful.

80 percent of the referenda were bond issues. The remainder were mainly distributed among sales taxes and property tax millage rate increases.

In reporting their data, library directors were asked to quantify the relative importance of various methods used in their campaigns. The most common methods were the distribution of pamphlets and fact sheets, followed by newspaper ads and articles, endorsements by community leaders, press releases, community group presentations, letters to the editor, library friends groups, and volunteers' telephone contact.



The directors were also asked what factors were most significant in the success of their campaigns. Ranked most important was the need for a new building followed by a history of quality library service, public relations efforts, activity of friends' groups, library boards, and campaign organizational efforts.

Ranked as relatively unimportant factors were the level of involvement of the business community, the appearance of a competing item on the ballot, and the existence of organized opposition.

## COLLECTION ASSESSMENT MANUAL AVAILABLE

The second edition of the *Pacific Northwest Collection Assessment Manual* is now available and is being mailed to libraries participating in the Pacific Northwest Database Project. The manual can be used as a beginning resource for those considering undertaking a collection assessment or as a source of general information regarding the concept's approach to collection assessment.

Significant changes from the first edition include more specific instructions on application of assessment techniques, a preliminary report on the Validation study currently underway in the northwest, and updated bibliographies and indexes for the 21 divisions of the concept's.

Montana libraries not already involved in the assessment project can request a copy of the manual at no charge from Pacific NW Concept's Database, State Library Building, Salem, OR 97310-0642.

## RSVP HELPS YOUNG USERS

The Retired Seniors Volunteer Program (RSVP) Intergenerational Library Assistance Project will help public libraries in four major cities around the United States provide help to children who use libraries after school. The pilot project has been initiated by the United States National Commission on Libraries and Information Science (NCLIS) and ACTION, the federal domestic volunteer agency.

The program will boost the abilities of libraries to serve the young users while utilizing the skills of older volunteers. The individual libraries will work with RSVP to identify the needs of the

children. For more information, contact: ACTION, 1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002. The project is funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science.

## NASA OFFERS AUDIOVISUALS

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has established a national distribution center for audio-visual materials as part of the NASA Education Resource Center Network. Four small, charge-free centers will be available to educators. NASA-related audio-visual materials throughout the country serve.

Materials available include videotapes and slide presentations, programs featuring current aerospace information.

School libraries interested in receiving a catalog of materials should write to School of Education, NASA-ORE, Lehigh County, JVS, 15181 Route 18 South, Oberlin, OH 44074.

## WHITEHALL LIBRARIAN RECOGNIZED FOR INNOVATION

Whitehall High School librarian, Al Anderson is featured in the United States Department of Education's, *Check this Out: Library Program Models*.

In the "Technology to Improve Services" section of the book, Anderson is noted as "a resourceful media specialist" who worked with the school's biology teacher, Todd Breitenfeldt, to develop a system to project microscopic images on a television screen.

The "Videotaping through Microscopes" program solved the problem of the school's microscope shortage and proved an effective

(See "Whitehall" pg. 4)



In 1915, Bernice Boone left Helena's Lewis & Clark Library a trust fund which will bring the library about \$24,000 a year. Bernice was a woman who died on February 20 at the age of 104.

The Livingston Public Library received \$5,000 from the estate of Mrs. Zella Carr Poorman, a longtime Livingston library supporter, who died last November.

# Friends of the Library

Montana State Library  
 1000 N. 17th Ave., 2nd Floor  
 Helena, MT 59601-3000  
 (406) 441-3000

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## MONTANA STATE LIBRARY NEWS

### Calendar of Events 1988

#### OCTOBER

- 1 Sagebrush Federation Reference Workshop - Miles City
- 4 - 7 Pacific Northwest Chapter/Medical Library Association-  
Bozeman
- 11 Federation Coordinators Meeting - Billings
- 13 TIGER/GIS Workshop - Helena
- 14 Tamarack Federation Reference Workshop - Pablo
- 15 - 18 Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA) -  
North Carolina
- 18 Trustee Workshop - Conrad
- 19 - 22 Mountain Plains Library Association Conference - Omaha
- 21 - 22 School Library Media Division Retreat - Feather Pipe  
Ranch - Helena
- 21 - 22 Public Library Retreat - Lewis & Clark Library - Helena
- 24 Collection Development Committee - Helena
- 28 - 29 Public Library Retreat - Miles Community College-  
Miles City

#### NOVEMBER

- 1 Advisory Council Meeting - Helena
- 9 Technology Committee Meeting - Helena

#### DECEMBER

- 13 Federation Coordinators Meeting - Helena
- 14 Commission - Helena